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This is a PDF version of PECKHAMIA 1(4): 71-73, March, 1978. Pagination of the original document has been retained. Author's note (26.1): The original drawing has been reprocessed for clarity. The word *above* in the caption for Fig. 1 refers to the original position of the figure.

SOME UNUSUAL *PHIDIPPUS AUDAX* FROM NORTHERN FLORIDA. D. E. Hill

Dr. H. K. Wallace collected a series of unusually colorful *Phidippus audax* (Hentz) in northern Florida between 1951 and 1954, and he has kindly allowed me to produce tracings from his Kodachromes made at that time (Fig. 1), to illustrate this brief account. The letters below refer to Fig. 1.

A-E. These are included to illustrate the general appearance of most *P. audax* encountered in the southeastern United States. As noted by Taylor and Peck (1975), southern *audax* are generally considerably larger than are their northern counterparts. These correspond to the appearance of the many *P. audax* which I have seen in Alachua County, Florida. Penultimate instars generally bear orange scales on the opisthosoma, which give way to white scales in the adults. Apart from size, these do not differ greatly from northern forms of *P. audax* in appearance. A: 28 Nov. 1953, Macon Co., Georgia, 4.1 miles south of Macon-Taylor Co. line on Ga. 128, under slivers of wood fence posts. B: Apr. 1954, Lauderdale Co., Mississippi. C: 11 Apr. 1954, Russell Co. Alabama, off highway 80 between Columbus, Georgia and Tuskegee, Alabama, from cement post holes. D: 12 Apr. 1954, Demopolis, Marengo Co. Alabama, flood plain of Tombigbee River, under bark of dead tree at lock no. 4. E: 17 Apr. 1954, Baldwin Co. Alabama, 35 miles west of Pensacola on US 90, from cement posts.

F-J. These spiders were taken from local populations in the same general area of northern Florida, near Tallahassee. Many possess very extensive and colorful scalation as adults. F: 22 Apr. 1951, Jefferson Co. Florida, 6 miles west of Monticello Courthouse on US 90, in silken nests under the bark of dead pine stumps. G: 18 Apr. 1954, Leon Co. Florida, 3.7 miles west of Tallahassee and 11.1 miles east of Leon on the Gadsden Co. line, from cement post holes at a bridge across seepage. H: 18 Apr. 1954, Jackson Co. Florida, Blue Springs Creek Dam on US 90, SE of Marianna, all adults from cement post holes at the dam.

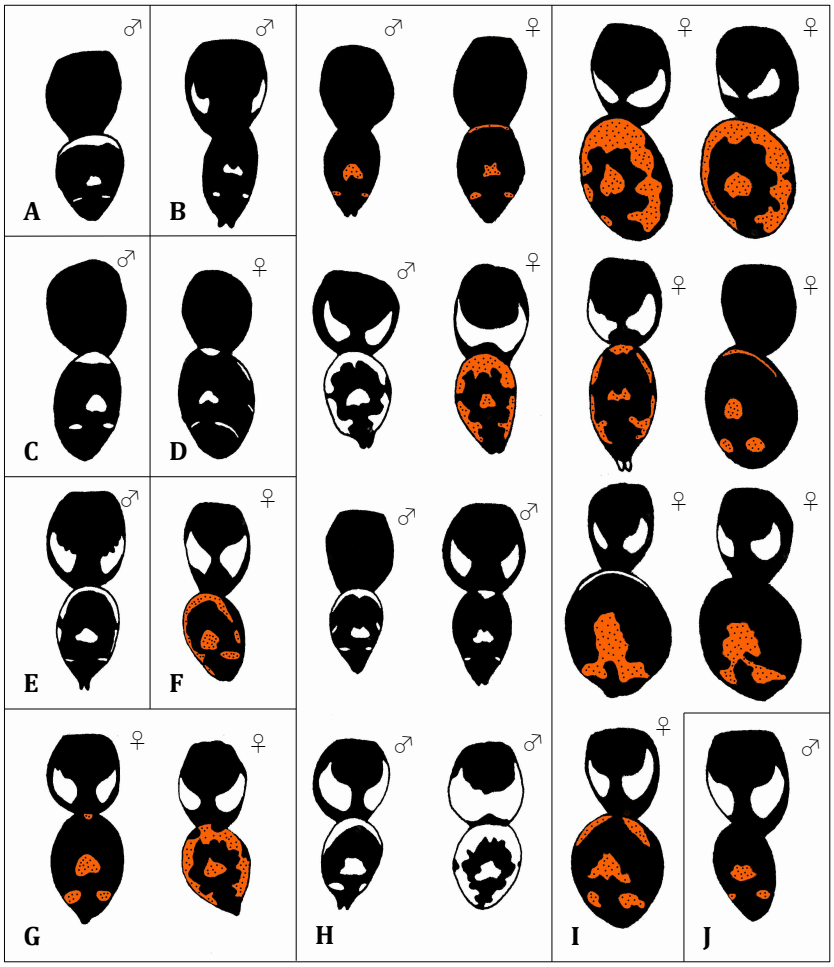

Fig 1. Adult *Phidippus audax* collected by H. K. Wallace. The patterns of colored (three-shafted) scales of the prosoma and opisthosoma have been traced from Kodachrome transparencies of the living spiders taken after the spiders were captured in northern Florida. In the areas which are dotted above, the scales are red-orange rather than white. For details, see the text.

I: 5 June 1952, Gadsden Co. Florida, 7 miles east of Quincy on the road to Havana, about 1 captured for each 15-20 holes in cement posts examined, some females with eggs. J: 29 Mar. 1954, Gadsden Co. Florida, along highway to Havana east of Quincy, from hole in cement post.

These data, taken from the collection data of Dr. Wallace, should in theory allow you to locate a population of these *P. audax* without great difficulty. Rather recently (1977), David Richman, G. B. Edwards and myself did attempt to find some cement post holes in Gadsden County, without success, however. Apparently many of the posts have been removed, and to be certain many generations of spiders have gone to their maker since the collection of these forms. Among the various *Phidippus*, it is *P. audax* that most often adapts to the structures of man; thus it is certain that the human impact upon the biogeography of this particular species will be great. Perhaps these are gone by now, but at least you know where to look for them!